

PdOC Society

Minutes 26 November 2014

Minutes of the meeting held at The Postdoc Centre, 16 Mill Lane at 6pm on Wednesday 26 November

Present: Maya Ghossaini (President), Nicky de Battista NdB (Treasurer), Joy Warde (Secretary), Paul Coxon, Alice Hutchings, Natalia Bulgakova NBU, Brian Krummel, Johannes Hjorth, Paul Bennett, Adina Feldman, Jean-François Mercure (Vice-President), Tariq Masood, Nicky Blanning NB, Severine Mollard (from item 6)

1. **Apologies:** Antonis Kanellopoulos, Clare Simpson Marko Tainio
2. **Minutes** – minutes of the meeting held on 29 October (**2014_10_29 minutes**) were approved as an accurate record.
3. **President's Report (MG)**
 - 3.1. MG would like to check on the date of the last update of the College Affiliation online information. It was noted that a new College affiliations page has been published on the OPdA website which contains current vacancies.
Action: JW to add link to OPdA site from PdOC
Action: JW to confirm the date of the last update with AK
 - 3.2. Mary Dobson will attend the PdOC xmas dinner as a guest of PdOC.
4. **Treasurer's Report (NdB)**
 - 4.1. NdB provided a written summary of the PdOC accounts (**PdOC statement 14-11-25.pdf**). The effective cash balance currently stands at £2781.00.
 - 4.2. NdB reported that PdOC is in the process of opening a new Society account at Barclays.
5. **United Kingdom Research Staff Association (UKRSA)/Vitae conference (AF)**
 - 5.1. AF reported on the UKRSA/Vitae conference (**UKRSA_report_conference2014_AdinaFeldman**). AF reported that PdOC is a Research Staff Association and was included in the 2010 publication on good practice for UKRSA. AF is likely to be the UKRSA East of England rep for UKRSA.
Action: PdOC to update entry in the good practise guidance as the booklet is republished
Action: AF will report further to the ctte in due course
Action: JW to put a link to Vitae on the PdOC website
 - 5.2. The lent term meeting of the postdoc affairs working group will focus on career pathways for postdocs.
6. **PdOC satisfaction survey results (AH)**
 - 6.1. AH presented the PdOC satisfaction survey results (**PdOC Satisfaction Results Nov 2014**). These results will be presented during the drinks reception at the PdOC Christmas dinner.
 - 6.2. The committee discussed the perception of PdOC in the wider postdoc community. Most postdocs only interact with PdOC via the weekly newsletter that is events focused. Postdocs are not aware of the much

wider aims and objectives of the Society.

Action: All to include additional items, where relevant, in the PdOC newsletter focussed on PdOC's representation role

Action: JW to publish ctte meeting minutes on the PdOC website.

Action: JW to add to PdOC communication strategy to upcoming PdOC agenda.

7. Second GO (second hand exchange scheme) – (JH)

7.1. JH led a committee discussion on the student run Second Go scheme. This is a goods exchange service where departing students either donate or sell items to the scheme. The ctte agreed to advertise Second GO through the PdOC newsletter and on the website

Action: JH to draft text to be included in the newsletter and on the website.

8. PdOC 'membership' – (MG and PC)

8.1. The committee had a wide-ranging discussion about PdOC membership. How is membership defined and how member's data should be recorded?

8.2. PdOC aims to represent all postdocs not just the postdocs (estimated 50%) who are signed up to the newsletter. PdOC now has the opportunity to communicate with all postdocs via the OPdA newsletter which reaches RA and SRA employed by the University of Cambridge and JRFs.

8.3. The PdOC Society has grown rapidly in the last few years. However, there is anecdotal evidence, that the aims of the PdOC Society are not fully understood by the postdoc community as a whole (item 6.2).

8.4. A clear, representative, responsive postdoc 'voice' is essential.

8.5. The recently established Departmental Postdoc Committee Chairs Network, DPCCN is growing rapidly (currently over 20 departments are represented). This network is a joint initiative between the OPdA and PdOC.

8.6. How are postdocs who are not active members of PdOC or in a department without a postdoc committee represented? An open postdoc forum could provide a mechanism to hear this voice.

8.7. PdOC has a potentially large PdOC 'Alumni' community. Many may still live in Cambridge and are beneficial additions to the life of the PdOC society

Action: A constitution sub committee will be reformed to consider and proposed redrafted sections of the constitution for consideration by the PdOC committee. MG, AF, PD, JFM and JH volunteered to join this sub-committee

Action: PdOC to use the OPdA newsletter to illustrate the full range of PdOC activities (links to item 6.2)

Action: PdOC AGM to be advertised (JW to organise) to all postdocs via reporter and via OPdA newsletter.

9. OPdA affiliated membership scheme – (JW)

9.1. JW reported that it is highly likely that the OPdA will accept a small number of postdocs as 'affiliates' . These postdocs are not working at the University of Cambridge or UPIs. There will be an OPdA affiliated membership fee charged for this small group.

9.2. JW reported that PdOC has the opportunity to make a case for a small donation (£3K) from the OPdA.

Action: JW to draft funding request and circulate to whole ctte for comment.

10. PdOC leadership/strategy training (JW)

10.1. JW reported that the cost of a 1 day away day in a College function room is approx. £1.5k. This includes lunch and dinner and does not include any negotiable discount. The committee agreed that for this to be worthwhile we should commit a full day (probably Saturday)

Action: JW to circulate potential dates

11. Other reports

11.1. Events report (BK/AH). The committee would like to thank Alice and Brian for organising a very wide range of PdOC events.

11.2. Staff Review and Development working group (JW)

11.3. PdOC Child Protection Policy (JW). All events involving Children or Vulnerable Adults should refer to the PdOC Child Protection Policy.

12. AOB

12.1. PdOC had been previously approached by a postdoc with a new concept for fund raising and networking.

Action: JFM to follow up proposal and report back

13. Date of future meetings – TBC

Action: all to complete doodle poll with availability from January to June 2015